Practitioner's Docket No. MPI03-012P1RNOMNIM **USSN: 10/768,158**

Preliminary Amendment

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 and please cancel claims 8-23. This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the applications:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for identifying a compound capable of treating a pain or a painful disorder, comprising:

a) combining a compound to be tested with a ~~16386, 15402, 21165, 1423, 636, 12303, 21425, 27410, 38554, 38555, 55063, 57145, 59914, 94921, 16852, 33260, 58573, 30911, 85913, 14303, 16816, 17827 or 32620~~ polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

i) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has sulfotransferase activity;

ii) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said polypeptide has sulfotransferase activity;

iii) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

iv) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;

under conditions suitable for binding of the test compound to the polypeptide; and

b) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide to thereby identify a compound which binds to the polypeptide,

thereby identifying a compound capable of treating a pain or a painful disorder.

2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of a small molecule, a peptide or an antibody.

3. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide further comprises heterologous sequences.

4. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is an isolated polypeptide, a membrane-bound form of an isolated polypeptide or a cell comprising the polypeptide.

5. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is a disorder associated with aberrant nociception.

6. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is pain.

7. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

a) a competition binding assay;

b) an immunoassay; and

c) a yeast two-hybrid assay.

8-23. (Canceled)